

IN MEMORIAM

BX
9225
.A24
I6
1853

Dr James W. Alexander.

From M. H. A.

Charleston S.C. 13th July

— 1834. —

1. 16 '97
PRESENTED TO THE LIBRARY OF

PRINCETON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

BY THE HEIRS OF THE LATE

Professor Henry Carrington Alexander, D.D., LL.D.

BX 9225 .A24 I6 1853

In memoriam [William Adger]





✓
IN MEMORIAM.

William ^{x/}Adger



CHARLESTON COURIER, DEC. 15, 1853.

DEATH OF WILLIAM ADGER, Esq.

It is our melancholy duty this morning, to announce the death of WILLIAM ADGER, Esq., fourth son of James Adger, Esq., and one of the most esteemed merchants of this city, which occurred, as the Telegraph informs us, at New-York yesterday.

Mr. ADGER had left us some two or three weeks since, on an excursion, partly for business purposes and partly for recreation, in the full enjoyment of health, and the intelligence of his death, after a brief illness, has plunged his family and friends into the deepest distress, for which they have the heartfelt sympathies of our whole community, in which the deceased stood deservedly high. He was in the prime of

life—being in his thirty-sixth year—and treading in the footsteps of his venerable and excellent father, now, although at a very advanced age, holding the most prominent rank among the active and energetic of our resident merchants, was identified with every thing connected with the business and prosperity of our city.

Quiet and unobtrusive in his deportment, Mr. ADGER was ever most assiduously engaged in the active duties of life. He was a member of the Presbyterian Church, of which he was an Elder at the time of his death, and as President for many years of the Eagle Fire Company, rendered distinguished services in the fire department of our city—a department to which we are all so much indebted for our safety and security. He was, also, characterized for his liberal and unostentatious charities, and was most emphatically a true friend to the deserving; and, although naturally, this sad bereavement will more severely afflict the immediate family circle, who best know how to appreciate the extent of

the calamity that has befallen them, yet there are many others who will long remember his numerous acts of pure and disinterested friendship.

CHARLESTON EVENING NEWS, DEC. 15, 1853.

DEATH OF WILLIAM ADGER, Esq.

It is with painful feelings that we have to record the death of WILLIAM ADGER, Esq., fourth son of James Adger, Esq., of this city. The deceased was in his thirty-sixth year, and was engaged in the mercantile profession, of which he was a very useful member. Having visited New-York about six weeks since, his death has been as unexpected as it has been afflicting and sorrowful, to a large circle of friends and connections. To his immediate relatives, on whom this calamity has fallen with redoubled force, a sympathising community offers that silent condolence which is the best evidence of general feeling, and a just tribute to the virtues of the deceased.

By his aged parents particularly, this bereavement will be felt most keenly. As a son, Mr. ADGER was all that parental love could desire or picture. In the relations of husband, father and friend, his affections were warm and unrelaxed, while his kindly disposition was felt in all the departments of his household.

Mr. ADGER was, at the time of his death, an Elder of the Second Presbyterian Church, where his religious services were gratefully recognized; while, as President for many years of the Eagle Fire Company, of this city, his duties were performed with that zeal which manifested a lively sense of the duties of the citizen.

As a testimonial of respect to the memory of the deceased, the different Fire Companies, which assembled for annual inspection this morning, after meeting on the ground were dismissed, and retired to their homes with muffled drums.

CHARLESTON COURIER, DEC. 19, 1853.

FUNERAL OF THE LATE WM. ADGER, Esq.

THE remains of this estimable gentleman and useful citizen, reached this place yesterday morning, in the steamer Union, from New-York, and were interred, in the evening, in the cemetery of the Second Presbyterian Church, (of which Mr. A. was a Ruling Elder,) amidst a large number of weeping relatives and sorrowing citizens.

The spacious church, in which the funeral services were performed, was filled to overflowing; and, among those who thus paid the last tribute to departed worth, were the Mayor and other officers of the city government, and the members of the fire department, of which the deceased was a most active and efficient officer.

The funeral discourse was pronounced by the Rev. Mr. Buttolph, assistant minister of the church, who, in the course of his remarks, gave a strong and vivid portraiture of the character and career of the deceased, as an intelligent and successful merchant, an active public officer, a true Christian, and an unostentatious philanthropist.

The discourse was followed by a solemn, affecting and most eloquent address, from the Reverend Thomas Smyth, D.D., (the brother-in-law of the deceased,) for more than twenty years the learned, laborious and zealous Pastor of the congregation, but who, for some months past, has been suffering from the effects of a paralytic attack, and been thereby disabled from officiating in the services of the sanctuary. On this occasion, however, the reverend gentleman seemed borne away by his feelings of brotherly affection, and to be inspired with a power and kindled with a fervor of eloquence, rarely surpassed in his palmiest days of health and strength.

The ceremonial, in the church, was closed with a most fervent and affecting prayer, by the same clergyman, and a suitable hymn by the choir ; after which the body of the deceased was committed to the grave, with every testimonial of respect and sorrow from surrounding relatives and friends.

SOUTHERN PRESBYTERIAN, CHARLESTON, DEC. 22, 1853.

DEATH OF WILLIAM ADGER, Esq.

THE wholly unexpected death of this gentleman, which occurred on Wednesday of last week in New-York, has plunged his family and friends into the deepest distress, and spread a gloom over our community. Mr. ADGER was the fourth son of James Adger, Esq., a prominent and well known merchant of this city. In the full enjoyment of health, he left us but recently for New-York, accompanied by Mrs. Adger. There he was taken ill and died.

The death of such a man is a public calamity. In the prime of his life—before he had completed his thirty-sixth year—

and in the midst of a high career of usefulness, the summons came !

At a very early age he made a profession of religion, and to the day of his death adorned that profession by a godly walk and conversation. He was an Elder in the Second Presbyterian Church, was Superintendent also of the Sabbath School, and an active and liberal supporter of all the benevolent operations in which that church is engaged. He was prominent also as a merchant ; and, for several years, had been President of the Eagle Fire Company, to whose distinguished services, in the protection of life and property, our citizens are so much indebted. He was also, at the time of his death, Treasurer of the Bible Society of this city, and connected with various other organizations for useful and benevolent purposes. Truly a great loss has been sustained, a wide void has been made.

By this decree of His Providence, God proclaims at once the inscrutable nature of

his designs, and solemnly warns—“*Be ye also ready.*”

Our deepest sympathies are with his bereaved family, his aged parents and other sorrowing friends. And may there be speedily reared up others, on whom his mantle of piety and usefulness may fall.

THE BEREAVED SABBATH SCHOOL.

THE following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted at a meeting of the teachers of the Sabbath School, connected with the Second Presbyterian Church, in this city, at the close of the exercises on Sabbath morning last:

We are called together, this morning, to give expression to the deep and painful feelings of our hearts, caused by the sudden death of our able and beloved Superintendent, Mr. WILLIAM ADGER, while away from us and his family, on a visit to New-York. Not a month ago, he left us

in the prime of life and the full enjoyment of health, expecting before this to have returned and engaged again in the work of his Divine Master, in which his soul delighted. Our Heavenly Father willed it otherwise; but we confidently trust that our loss has been his eternal gain—that having left this world of sorrow, he has entered into the joy of our Lord, in the house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

It is a loud call to us to be up and doing, not knowing the day or the hour when the Son of Man cometh. It tells us, man appoints, but God controls; but, as a Sabbath School, we feel deeply this trying dispensation of God's overruling providence. Therefore, be it

Resolved, That in the death of our able, energetic and beloved Superintendent, Mr. WILLIAM ADGER, our school has lost an efficient guide, a judicious adviser, a tried friend and advocate, a cheerful benefactor, and a zealous co-worker.

Resolved, That as teachers, we in an especial manner deplore his loss, for, encouraged as we were by his Christian admonitions, and incited by his consistent example in the discharge of our duty, we truly know not where to find one to fill his place with like satisfaction and edification to all.

Resolved, That in the death of WILLIAM ADGER, the children of this school have lost a sincere and sympathizing friend, and a judicious counsellor.

Resolved, That we deeply sympathize with our beloved Pastor, and the Session of the Church, in this afflictive dispensation, by which they are deprived of a most efficient supporter, and a most useful member.

Resolved, That we tender our warmest sympathy to the afflicted widow and bereaved children, and the sorrowing family of our lamented brother, and earnestly commend them to Him who alone can pour the oil of consolation into their wounded spirits.

Resolved, That this preamble and these resolutions be entered on our minutes, and a blank page be inscribed to his memory—and that a copy be sent to his parents and widow, and a copy be furnished the Session of the Church.

Resolved, That the above proceedings be published in the Southern Presbyterian.

AT a meeting of the Session of the Second Presbyterian Church, held on the 25th instant, William C. Dukes, Esq., after paying a very touching and appropriate tribute to the memory of the late WILLIAM ADGER, introduced the following preamble and resolutions, which were unanimously adopted:

The afflictive dispensation of Providence, which has so recently visited this congregation, in the death of WILLIAM ADGER, calls upon us, the members of the Session of this Church, to humble ourselves before Almighty God, and to lament the stroke which has removed from this body one whose Christian character and counsels endeared him to our hearts,

and made him eminently useful to this church.

While we mourn his loss, we mourn not without hope, feeling confident that although no longer a member of the church militant on earth, he is a member of the church triumphant in heaven, and that he has left these lower courts and this earthly sanctuary to join "the general assembly and church of the first born, which are written in heaven."

It does not become us, in this present affliction, to attempt to fathom the purposes of Him whose "judgments are unsearchable, and his ways past finding out."

We are assured that though "clouds and darkness are round about Him, righteousness and judgment are the habitation of His throne."

While we, therefore, bow in humble resignation to the will of God, we desire, at the same time, as the Session of this Church, to bear our testimony to the worth and Christian character of our departed brother.

As a member of this Session, he was wise in counsel, consistent in life, and devotedly attached to the interests of this church.

In his death, the Session has lost an efficient member, the church a pious Elder, and the Sabbath School a faithful Superintendent and friend. Be it, therefore,

Resolved, That this Session mourns, with unaffected grief, the death of WILLIAM ADGER, as a loss to the Session and Church, of which he was an active member.

Resolved, That we will long hold in grateful remembrance his labors in behalf of this Church, and his fidelity to the cause of Christ.

Resolved, That in the character of our lamented brother we behold the power of the Holy Spirit to mould and fashion the human heart for his own abode, and that in his death, we see the strength of faith to overcome every difficulty, and the con-

solutions of the gospel to support the soul in the dying hour.

Resolved, That we sympathize deeply with the bereaved family and relatives of the deceased, and assure them that in their affliction we also are afflicted, in their sorrow we share a part.

Resolved, That these resolutions be inscribed upon the records of this Church.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to the afflicted family and parents of the deceased, and that they be published in the Southern Presbyterian of this city.

CHARLESTON DAILY PAPERS, DEC. 27, 1853.

TRIBUTE OF RESPECT.

At a meeting of the Board of Managers of the Bible Society of Charleston, held at the Depository on Friday afternoon, the 23rd instant, the following preamble and resolutions were unanimously passed :

Since we last assembled, one who, for the past ten years, has faithfully and zealously served this Society as Treasurer, has labored to extend its usefulness, and has devoted his time, means and influence to the dissemination of the sacred scriptures, has, by the decree of an all-wise and gracious God, been summoned to his service above, where he will realize the promises so plainly recorded in the pre-

cious gospel, which it was his ardent desire to impart to his fellow-creatures.

It is our sad privilege to dwell upon that generous and benevolent feeling which always actuated him, that mild, patient and obliging deportment which was his characteristic, that sincere and true piety which guided his actions and words, and mourn over the departure of him in the midst of his active usefulness.

But while we mourn, it is not without an assured belief that he has exchanged the trials of a mortal life for a happy and immortal one in heaven.

Resolved, That in the death of our late Treasurer, Mr. WILLIAM ADGER, our Society has been deprived of the services of a faithful, zealous and efficient officer, the church of a sincerely pious Christian, and our community of a virtuous, useful and good man.

Resolved, That we deeply sympathize with his bereaved and respected widow, and his afflicted and aged parents, and

earnestly pray that God will pour into their wounded hearts the oil of consolation.

Resolved, That a copy of these proceedings be sent, by the President, to his widow and parents, and that they be published in the daily papers of this city.

DANL. RAVENEL, President.

GEO. M. COFFIN, Recording Secretary.

CHARLESTON DAILY PAPERS, DEC. 20, 1853.

TRIBUTE OF RESPECT.

PLANTERS' AND MECHANICS' BANK, }
Charleston, Dec. 17th, 1853. }

At a meeting of the Directors, held
this day,

The President, on taking the chair, announced to them as a Board, the event which they had all, as individuals, learnt with so much pain, since their last meeting, the death of a highly valued friend and colleague, WILLIAM ADGER. Whereupon it was

Resolved, unanimously, That the members of this Board have received with sorrow the intelligence of the death of WILLIAM ADGER.

This mournful event took place in a dis-

tant city, during an absence from home, which he intended to be short. He has passed away in the prime of life and in the midst of usefulness; fulfilling the expectations and possessing the love of a large circle of relatives and friends, to most of whom, in the wise providence of God, the sad, yet mutually gratifying offices of the dying hour, were not permitted.

Mr. ADGER had been upwards of twelve years a member of this Board. He became associated with us at an early age, and our esteem and regard for him had increased with length of intercourse. He brought to the business and duties of life a strong and well informed mind; modest in deportment, mild in manners, sincere in disposition, and cautious in judgment, his worth gave value to his experience and soundness to his counsels.

We sympathize deeply with his bereaved family and relatives—with them we rejoice in the belief that his character and hopes were formed upon an early and humble

piety; and with them we trust that his earthly relations, so unexpectedly and painfully sundered, have been exchanged for the higher and happier relations of a better life.

Resolved, That the President be requested to enclose to the respected widow, and the venerable father of the deceased, a copy of the foregoing resolution.

Resolved, also, That these resolutions be published.

Extract from the minutes.

DANL. RAVENEL, President.

CHARLESTON DAILY PAPERS, DEC. 19, 1853.

TRIBUTE OF RESPECT.

AT an extra meeting of the Eagle Fire Engine Company, held on Friday evening, the 16th inst., the following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted :

Never have we been called to make a more melancholy record than that which now devolves upon us. The intelligence has reached us, that our fellow-member, and late President, WILLIAM ADGER, has departed this life.

The death of scarcely any other citizen would have been so deeply felt in the various relations of the community, commercial, social and religious.

Although he had just attained the meridian of his days, he had yet, by his intelli-

gence, his integrity, his energy of character, his purity of morals, his fervent piety, and his generous devotion to all enterprises of general good, acquired an influence, and won for himself a position which few, even the more gifted and successful among men, are able to achieve by a long and laborious life.

But while we deplore his untimely death, as a calamity to the public, we can but feel that upon our body the blow has fallen with especial severity. Born and reared among us, identified for sixteen years with all our interests, perils and enjoyments, always prompt in duty, affable in his manners, sincere in his professions, uniting in rare harmony and beauty the courtesy of the gentleman, the genial warmth of a faithful friend, and the bland dignity of the devout Christian, it is not strange that we mourn his loss as a personal bereavement to each member of our company, and as a link broken in the bonds of our brotherhood, which we know not how or when is ever to be re-placed.

We forbear to say more. He needs no eulogy, and words avail not to soothe the griefs of many hearts. We will endeavor to bow in resignation to the will of Almighty God, who has appointed this affliction; at the same time we would pledge ourselves to renewed exertions and endeavors to follow in the footsteps of our departed brother, whose name and virtues shall long remain imbedded among the most cherished recollections of our souls, so that the career of each of us may be, like his, one of usefulness and honor, and ours too a glorious reward in heaven. Therefore—

Resolved, That we deeply sympathize with the wife and family, and the aged parents of our deceased brother, in this their sore affliction, and trust that they will cherish, as a healing balm to their hearts, the glorious reality, that he is not “dead,” but only “asleep” in Jesus.

Resolved, That a blank page in our minute book be inscribed with his name, age, and date of his death, in testimonial

of the high esteem in which we held him while living and the respect we cherish for his memory.

Resolved, That a copy of these proceedings be furnished the family of the deceased, and be published in the various gazettes of this city.

CHAS. H. BECKMANN,
Secretary.

CHARLESTON DAILY PAPERS, DEC. 23, 1853.

TRIBUTE OF RESPECT.

At a meeting of the Board of Fire Masters, held on the 21st instant, the following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted:

But a few days has elapsed since we were overwhelmed by the mournful intelligence that our friend and associate, WM. ADGER, was no more.

But a few weeks ago he left us in the prime of his manhood, in the enjoyment of health, and with a reasonable hope of a long, active and useful life.

Possessing, in an eminent degree, great practical talents, united with an amiable disposition and a generous and noble heart, illustrating in a living example, the con-

sistency and power of a true Christian character, he won the confidence and esteem of all who knew him.

The death of Mr. ADGER is a great public calamity; his activity and energy as a citizen, his intelligence and integrity as a merchant, his fidelity and constancy as a friend, and his self-denying devotion as a Christian, was not surpassed by any in our community, and his loss will be mournfully felt in every department of life.

But while we may not murmur at the Providence whose wisdom cannot err and whose goodness precludes all possibility of unkindness, we may be permitted to bear our testimony to the ennobling virtues of our deceased associate and friend, and mourn in the bitterness of grief for our irreparable loss. Be it, therefore,

Resolved, That the members of this Board deplore with unaffected and heartfelt sorrow, the untimely death of their late friend and associate, WILLIAM ADGER.

Resolved, That for his fidelity in friendship, his amiable, generous and Christian character, and for the exhibition of all those virtues which adorn and ennoble humanity, we admired him as a man and loved him as a brother.

Resolved, That a page of our record book be inscribed with his name, as a lasting memorial of our regard while living, and profound respect for his memory.

Resolved, That although we may not intrude upon the sorrows of his family and relatives, yet we deeply sympathize with them in this sudden and heavy bereavement.

Resolved, That a copy of these proceedings be sent to the afflicted widow and venerable father of the deceased, and that they be published in the daily journals of the city.

From the minutes.

F. N. BONNEAU,
Clerk and Sup'dt of Engines,
Board Fire Masters.

EXTRACTS FROM FUNERAL SERMON OF REV. D. L. BUTTOLPH,
SUNDAY, DEC. 18, 1853.

A GOOD man is taken out of the world. While he lived, he was the centre of influence ; he was righteous in the sight of God and merciful in the sight of man ; he was pious, beneficent and wise ; he was a blessing to his family, to the church, to the community, to the world. In the fulness of his strength he is stricken down—in the midst of his usefulness he is taken away. While his heart is devising liberal things, the Spoiler comes and lays his icy hand upon him, and changes his countenance, and sends him away. An arrest is put upon his influence—a sudden stop is put to enterprises of great pith and moment. The streams of mercy and beneficence are dried up at the fountain. A

blank is created in the community, and for a time the world looks desolate and lonely.

No wonder that the prophet felt sad at the spectacle of the death of a good man, and poured forth his thoughts in the measured cadence of a funeral dirge—"The righteous perisheth and no man layeth it to heart, and merciful men are taken away; none considering that the righteous is taken from the evil to come."

And well may we, my brethren, exchange our garments for sack-cloth and sit in the dust, and pour forth wailing lamentation and bitter cries, if the sad bereavement which, within the last week, has afflicted this community, this church, this people, and touched all hearts, and caused eyes unused to weep, to fill with tears—if, I say, this bereavement, in which so many hearts sympathize, is suffered to pass without improvement and deep consideration. I speak the language of truth and soberness, I cast no disparagement upon any, when I say that no one could have been

taken from this community, whose loss would have been more generally and deeply felt than that of him whose death we now deplore. In the walks of active business, where Mr. ADGER moved with energy, promptness and despatch, where he acquired wealth, honor and the esteem of all who knew him, where his influence was felt, his counsel prized and his business talents fully known and appreciated, there he will be missed.

Few men possess that combination of business talents and qualities which Mr. ADGER possessed. To soundness of judgment, coolness, prudence and forethought, were joined energy, activity and perseverance in a remarkable degree. In addition to these qualities which placed him in the front rank of business men, he possessed other and nobler virtues, which elevated him far above the mere routine of active life, and won for him a reputation more valuable than the wealth of the Indies. For integrity, honor, consistency and a strict regard for truth and justice, who in

this community stood higher than the subject of these remarks ! But it is not only in the walks of business and the marts of trade that Mr. ADGER's death will be lamented. The safety and security of life and property are affected by the decease of one who held a responsible post and rendered important services in the Fire Department of this city. The gloom that settled over the different fire companies in this city, when the intelligence arrived that he who had inspired them with coolness and courage in the hour of danger, in the battle with the elements, was no more, proves how highly his services in that department were valued, and what a loss his death has been to this city. And need I say to any here present that, in the death of Mr. ADGER, the needy and the distressed have lost an invaluable friend and helper. Unostentatious in his charities, the world knows not the extent or the frequency of his alms-deeds. But they are recorded in heaven ; they are held in grateful remembrance by those whose wants he has re-

lieved, and from many a bended knee and secret closet has gone up the petition that the richest of heaven's blessings might rest upon him. In his charities, as in every thing else, Mr. ADGER was governed by principle and not by blind impulse, and the streams of his beneficence and charity were directed where, in his judgment, they would relieve the most distress and accomplish the most good.

But to the church, to this church, more particularly, the death of Mr. ADGER is an irreparable loss. Here his affections were garnered. He loved these gates of Zion. He gave to this church the dew of his youth and the mature strength of his riper years. At the time of his death he was holding the office of Ruling Elder of this church and Superintendent of the Sabbath School. You who were associated with him in the government of this church, and you who were associated with him in the Sabbath school, know well how faithfully and assiduously and conscientiously he discharged the duties of these separate

spheres of usefulness. But in that large family circle in which he was a most beloved and dearly cherished object of affection, what a chasm! what a void! has his death produced. This is too sacred ground for me to tread. These wounds are too tender to be touched. May the God of mercy apply balm to those crushed and bruised hearts. May he assuage the bitterness of the parent's grief! May he support the widow in her loneliness and desolation! May he be the Father of those fatherless children! And from the inexhaustible fulness of his infinite love, may he supply all these afflicted and bereaved relatives and friends with such support and comfort, that they may bear up with Christian resignation, under this severe trial, and say, with one of old—"Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him."

Our departed brother knew what affliction was. Not long ago—it was only a few months since—he sat in that seat overwhelmed with grief for the loss of a be-

loved child. You who then beheld him, saw that his heart was well nigh broken by the blow, and you who saw him after time had somewhat assuaged the bitterness of his grief, knew by his changed countenance and subdued voice, that the iron had entered his soul, and that it needed but little to open those wounds again and awaken fresh anguish in the depths of that loving heart.

From all such evils and sorrows, and from many more, the righteous are delivered at death. They are taken, says the prophet, in the text, "from the evil to come." No more conflict with sin. No more sights of wrong and oppression. No more trials and bereavements. "God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes, and the days of their mourning shall be ended." The furnace of affliction has been passed through, the dross is removed, the gold is refined. "O! that I had the wings of a dove! then would I fly away and be at rest!" There is a rest for the people of God—there is a heaven of unutterable

joy and glory. Sometimes heaven seems to us not far off. The eternal mansions seem very near us—just above us. Especially is this so when one whom we loved, and with whom we had taken sweet counsel, suddenly leaves our sight and steps into the kingdom of glory. At such a time our affections are loosened from earth, and if we had wings we would stay here no longer. Our hearts are in heaven with that sainted spirit whom we loved. We almost instinctively turn our eyes heavenwards to catch a view of his radiant form. We dwell on the wonder and the joy that must fill his soul as the glories of heaven burst on his view. We listen for his notes of praise as he strikes his harp in unison with the angelic choirs. At such a time, death is the gate to endless joy, and the language of our hearts is: "Come, Lord Jesus! come quickly!"

To this church, of which the deceased was a member and a Ruling Elder, God speaks, in this severe and sad dispensation, most solemnly and loudly. My brethren, ought

we not seriously to inquire why it is that God has visited this church so severely? Why is it that he has reached forth his hand and plucked away almost the very cap-stone from this spiritual edifice? May it not be that God has a controversy with this people? There are some things in this Providence which seem dark and mysterious; but dark and mysterious though they appear, we know that all the circumstances of this dispensation, so sad and distressing, were ordered by infinite wisdom, and that they are all just and right.

Mr. ADGER left this city a few weeks since, accompanied by his wife, for a short northern excursion. Their tour had been a pleasant one. The day for their departure from the North had been decided upon, and their family and friends were looking forward to a speedy and joyful reunion. Just before the time fixed upon for their return, he was taken ill. The intelligence from them, however, was far from being alarming, and not until the last was he thought to be in imminent peril. All

that the skill of the physician, and the sleepless attention of a faithful and devoted wife could do, were done to avert the stroke of death; but God had determined otherwise. He was to die, and to die away from home. This seems hard and perplexing. There were many who would gladly have hung over his bed-side and helped to alleviate his sufferings; and if prayers could have availed, they would have gone up like incense to the throne of God that his life might be spared. But in that lonely chamber, in the hour of his extremity, there was an arm stretched out for his support stronger than any earthly arm—there was a friend near him dearer than any earthly friend. With the full knowledge of his critical condition, he was calm and undismayed, and expressed his hope and confidence in the Redeemer, and his entire readiness to die, if such was the will of God. His feet were planted upon the Rock of Ages. He passed not away from earth until he had given to those near

him the fullest assurance that he was ripe for heaven.

“Oh, God ! if thy ‘decree and purpose be that I am to die away from home, and even in a strange land, let it be so. Let none but strangers stand around my dying bed ; let none but strangers hear my dying words ; let none but strangers prepare my body for its burial ; but give me, O give me, the consolations of that religion which supported him in his last hours, and I ask no more.”

OBITUARY PUBLISHED IN THE CHARLESTON PAPERS, JAN. 12, 1854.

OBITUARY.

DIED, of small pox, after a very brief illness, in the city of New-York, on the 14th December, 1853, WILLIAM ADGER, of Charleston, S. C.

His remains were interred on Sunday, 18th December, 1853, in the family vault, in the ground of the Second Presbyterian Church, in Charleston, of which church he was a member and a Ruling Elder.

The circumstances of his death were heart-rending to the surviving relatives. May God enable them to submit to the will of his inscrutable Providence, in denying to all but two of them the sad comfort of ministering to him in his last extremity, with that intensity of love which would have died that he might live. He

died in the prime of life, and in the mid career of his usefulness, and his death has sent a wave of sorrow over our entire community. "How is the mighty fallen in the midst of the battle."

In the strife and bustle of the business world, and in those labors for the public good of which he cheerfully bore his full measure, he went side by side with others in the same race. His brow was adorned with the wreath of success, and his acknowledged rank was that of a master spirit; yet such was the wisdom and judgment given him, such the blandness of his manners, the warmth of his social feelings, the modesty of his deportment, and the kindness of his heart, that "none knew him but to love him, none name him but to praise."

In his death the church of God, and all benevolent and useful associations, have lost a wise head and a warm heart; the poor and friendless a kind benefactor; and obscure and struggling merit an efficient, generous friend.

The character of his mind was eminently practical, and his intellectual endowments of that order rarely surpassed. He had all his powers of mind at his command. Possessed of self-reliance, and of almost unerring judgment, he was prudent yet persevering, wise in counsel, cool and collected in the hour of danger, and of the most unbounded energy and enthusiasm in action. Of unbending integrity and uprightness of purpose, he was, perhaps, as free as is given to man from passion and prejudice, and was capable of the sublimest of all the virtues—justice and impartiality.

We are at a loss whether to admire most his energy of will and massive strength of character, or the sweetness and gentleness of his affections :

“ His life was gentle, and the elements
So mixed in him, that Nature might stand up
And say to all the world, this is a Man !”

If he was a model which all may emulate, and few surpass, as a man of business, a public-spirited citizen, a large-hearted

and laborious man, he was also a bright example in the exercise of the benevolent and kind affections. That enthusiasm which like an element encircled him, and with which he stimulated and bore along with him all with whom he was associated in active life, was softened into tenderness as that kind heart diffused itself in all the varied scenes of social and domestic life. Around his early tomb, we take up the lamentation of David over Jonathan: "I am distressed for thee, my brother; very pleasant hast thou been unto me. Thy love was wonderful, passing the love of women." Very pleasant hast thou been in the walks of business, in the duties of a citizen and public benefactor, in thy place at the house of God, but, more than all, hast thou been pleasant, gentle and affectionate, at the fireside, in the charmed circle of Home, in those arms of Love in which parents, brothers, wife and children, held thee clasped, but from which, in an unexpected hour, God has severed the endearing bands—and pleasant and mourn-

ful to the soul in the sweet memory of Love which thou hast left behind thee. That deep river of Love has now emptied itself into the ocean of Eternity ; and none but the hand of God, which dealt the heavy blow, can heal those broken hearts, or wipe away those burning tears. Nothing can enable them to drink their bitter cup but the submissive spirit of the Man of Sorrows, who cried out in anguish : " Father, not my will but thine be done."

Nevertheless, our loss is his eternal gain. He died as he had lived, strong in faith, meek and trusting to the last. He knew that the hand of God had smitten him, but not a murmuring word escaped his lips. His very aspect was peace and resignation, and all those lovely graces which had ever set their seal upon his brow—submission to God's will, thoughtfulness, unselfishness, patience, love and child-like gentleness—were now refined and perfected in the fiery trial, and gave shining evidence of all-sustaining grace.

His beloved wife having spoken of his situation as a calamity—"Call it not a calamity," said he, "it is just what I need, and was all arranged long ago." At another time he said—"I wish you to know that my mind is turned to the subject of death, and I am perfectly calm. I tell you this to calm and comfort you." Again, being asked if time was tedious to him, he said—"Oh no! my mind is fully and constantly occupied, and I feel very calm." "Can you say you feel happy?" "Yes, perfectly happy! my trust is in my Redeemer." God in mercy gave him a clear unclouded mind up to the very moment when the "spirit quit its mortal frame." "To abide in the flesh," said Paul, "is more needful for you," but "to depart and be with Christ is far better." And a greater than Paul has said—"In my Father's house are many mansions; I go to prepare a place for you"—"that where I am, there ye may be also."

What if Death, with icy fingers,
All the fount of life congeals,
'Tis not there thy Brother lingers,
'Tis not Death his spirit feels.

Though for him thy soul is mourning,
Though with grief thy heart is riven,
While his flesh to dust is turning
All his soul is filled with heaven.

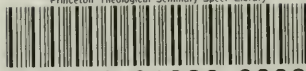
Spheres above of Love and Glory
Here forbid his longer stay ;
Angel-Heralds bright and holy,
Show his willing feet the way.

Hark ! the golden harps are ringing,
Sounds unearthly fill his ear,
Countless ranks of Seraphs shining
Hail his joyful entrance there.





Princeton Theological Seminary-Speer Library



1 1012 01036 0008